

The specification and drawings have been extensively amended to conform to the parent application serial no. 08/899,434 as amended on December 9, 1999. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that this obviates the objections of numbered paragraph 3 of the Office Action.

The Examiner rejected Claims 83 and 84 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over the Christoff reference (U.S. Patent No. 4,617,683) in view of the Tilman reference (U.S. Patent No. 4,756,629).

The Tilman reference appears to have both profiles mounted on strips which mount directly to the walls of the bag. See col. 3, line 26-31, to wit:

The strips are shown at 19 and 20 in Figure 2. The strip 19 has a profile 21 extending therealong with a base 23 to mount the profile on the bag wall.

Similarly, the strip 20 has a profile 22 extending therealong with a base 24 for mounting the profile on the bag wall.

Reference is made to Figure 2 of the Tilman reference.

This is quite different from the claimed structure of Claim 83 which recites, in part:

web material having thereon a flexible interlocking fastener lip permanently connected to a fastener assembly, said fastener assembly comprising an engaging portion releasably connected to a complementary engaging portion, said complementary engaging portion being connected to said front wall

It is respectfully submitted that this is not disclosed or suggested by the cited art and that Claims 83 and 84 are in immediate condition for allowance.

Claim 4 has been amended to include the previously unentered language and to resolve the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 4-7 are in immediate condition for allowance.

For all of the reasons above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are in immediate condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw his rejections of the claims, to allow the claims, and to pass this application to early issue.

Respectfully submitted,



Gerald Levy
Registration No. 24,419

Pitney, Hardin, Kipp & Szuch, L.L.P.
711 Third Avenue
New York, New York 10017
212-687-6000